of revenue, derived from providing telecommunications services, between different services providers;

(e) recommend revocation of licence for non-compliance of terms and conditions of licence;

(f) ensure compliance of terms and conditions of licence;

(g) protect the interest of customers of telecommunication services;

(h) settle disputes between service providers;

(i) fix rates for providing telecommunication within an outside India; and

(j) monitor the quality of service and conduct periodical surveys of such service provided by service providers.

3. While the role and powers conferred on the TRAI envisage a substantial measure of autonomy to the Authority, the functions relating to grant/revocation of licences and fixing terms and conditions of licences still vest with the Central Government. As per Section 25(2) of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India Act, 1997, the TRAI shall, in exercise of its powers and performance of its functions, be bound by such directions on questions of policy as the Central Government may give in writing to it from time to time.

4. The TRAI has been set up mainly with a view to perform regulatory functions and, thereby, provide a level playing field in the Telecom Sector.

As a service provider, the Department Telecommunications (DoT) would come within the scope of TRAI's functions but its responsibilities, including in the field of policy, are not affected.

Printing of Telephone Directories

4124. SHRI BANGARU LAXMAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the latest telephone directories Circle/District-wise printed and distributed to subscribers and upto what date were they corrected and available for collection by subscribers; and

(b) by when the next Directory expected to be published, Circle/District-wise; and the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) and (b) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House as soon as possible.

Violation of Tender for Procuring Digital Exchanges from MNCs

4125. SHRI G. PRATHAPA REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that DoT procured 8.9 lakh lines of digital exchanges from MNCs against the tendered quantity of 2 lakh lines only; if so, the reasons therefor;

(b) the special features of ISDN facility in MNC switching technology and the cost;

(c) the number of subscribers as ondate who are using the ISDN service and the revenue being generated from these subscribers; and

(d) the number of subscribers using ISDN services in the developed countries?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATION (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) Yes, Sir. The Department procured 9.1 lakh lines of Digital Exchanges from the Companies registered to manufacture such equipment